



## **Pierce City High School**

**District: Pierce City R-VI Schools**

**Building Enrollment: 262**

**Grade Range: 9-12**

**Address:**

500 Main Street

Pierce City, Missouri 65723-1124

**Phone:**

417-476-2515

**Fax:**

417-476-3516

**E-mail:**

[russm@pcschoools.net](mailto:russm@pcschoools.net)

**Website:**

<http://schoolweb.missouri.edu/pierceciky.k12.mo.us>



### ***A Snapshot of Pierce City High School...***

Pierce City High School is located in the small town of Pierce City, in rural southwest Missouri. Pierce City High School's students are, for the most part, the children of blue collar workers who have lived in the community since they were children themselves. The families of Pierce City value their community and have developed a sense of strength through adversity. On May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2003, Pierce City was hit by a devastating tornado that made its way through the center of town, destroying everything in its path, including several homes and almost of all of the community's businesses. Families worked together in the years that followed to overcome many obstacles, rebuilding their homes and businesses. It is this sense of community pride and strong work ethic that permeate Pierce City High School. Caring and togetherness are reflected among students and teachers alike.

*Pierce City High School's Mission: "...to provide quality educational experiences that enable all students to acquire the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary to become healthy, responsible and productive adults. We believe that all students should be able to manage change, become life-long learners, and participate in the democratic process. By recognizing each student's unique potential, the Pierce City R-VI School District shall be a cooperative partnership of parents, students, staff, and community in the educational process."*

### ***No Excuses – Pierce City High School Students Will Be Successful!***

Although research indicates that students from lower socio-economic backgrounds tend to score lower on standardized assessments, the Pierce City High School staff refuses to accept the community's economic challenges as an excuse for poor student performance. Pierce City High School takes pride in working with individual students to determine the needs of each, from students with special needs to those who benefit from additional challenges. The school counselor places students in a work transition program to assist them in finding gainful employment after graduation, works with at-risk students to ensure they are on target for

***"We try to simplify things by getting to know the students and learning what their needs and interests are so that we can work with them and their families to ensure success both during and after high school."***

graduation, and assists seniors in securing scholarships to fund post-secondary education. Pierce City faculty and staff appreciate the opportunity to know each of the students personally so they can help them achieve their goals.

Pierce City High School's designation as an A+ School in 2002 has been instrumental in setting the stage for staff to help individual students determine and achieve academic goals. With the A+ School designation, Pierce City High School assumed responsibility for aligning curriculum to the Show-Me Standards and Grade Level Expectations. Rigorous coursework with identified objectives and appropriate assessments for all courses has been implemented. Teachers participated in professional development addressing contextual learning, performance assessment development, and curriculum revision. As a result, the school has incorporated several contextual learning courses that correlate hands-on activities with workplace skills. In addition, courses and guidance programs have been designed to help students identify aptitude/interest in career pathways, and the curriculum has been refined to provide students with skills necessary for high-paying and rewarding careers. Dual enrollment courses through the University of Missouri Kansas City and Missouri State University also provide college-bound students with the opportunity to take college level courses for credit at a reduced rate – a savings that is especially valuable to local families. Pierce City High School's curriculum offers all students, regardless of their individual interests and goals, opportunities to be successful.

### ***An Institution of Opportunity***

Pierce City High School faculty and staff encourage students to view the school as an institution of opportunity. An inclusive and supportive environment fosters self-discipline and responsibility for learning. All school personnel work to form solid, positive relationships with students so that each one feels important. The school's small size enables staff to meet individually with students and their parents and to stay in close contact with them. The school counselor frequently meets with students to discuss their unique situations.

***“By encouraging teachers and staff members to develop positive relationships with students and getting to know them on an individual basis, we feel we are in the process of creating [a positive] learning environment.”***

The A+ coordinator works with individual students to encourage responsibility, citizenship and attendance, as well. Vocational courses promote community service, character development, and ethical judgment, encouraging students to be actively and productively involved in their school and surrounding community.

At Pierce City High School, opportunities for involvement are key to cultivating a sense of responsibility among students. Nearly 90 percent of Pierce City High School's student population is involved in co-curricular activities, such as Future Farmers of America, Future Business Leaders of America, Spanish Club, Scholar's Bowl, Drama Club, Book Club, National Honor Society, and athletic programs. Organization sponsors and coaches allow students to be very involved in activities, forming committees to plan events, running for office, and organizing fundraisers. Students reap the benefits, developing work ethic, organizational skills, and interpersonal skills that prepare them for their post-high school endeavors.

### **Gold Star Practices – What's Working at Pierce City High School**

- ★ ***Hiring and retaining high quality teachers has been an important factor in fostering academic success at Pierce City High School.***
- ★ ***A professional development focus on data analysis has assisted teachers in reflecting on and revising curriculum.***
- ★ ***Letters are sent through the mail to parents requesting their commitment to attend parent/teacher conferences, allowing parents to be added to group e-mail for daily bulletins and other information.***

*Pierce City High School faculty and staff stay the course, developing positive relationships with students and parents toward the goal of seeing every student become successful.*